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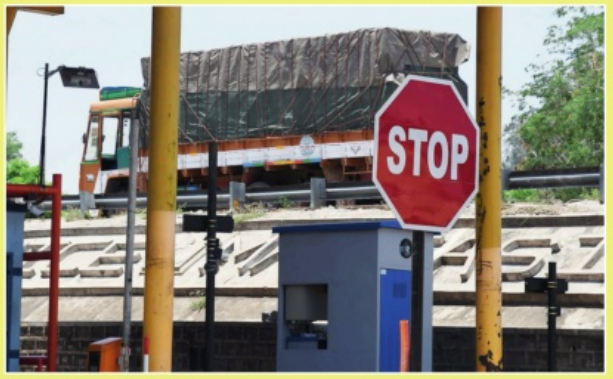
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 33% Partly Cloudy Sensex 77,414 | Nifty 23,519 | Gold 88,910 | Silver 100,854 | Dollar 85.51 | Euro 92.72 | GBP 110.80

RUDE SHOCK

Person with disability left in tears after guard gets into altercation with family, denies them easy exit from Cubbon Park

PAGE 5



TOLL ORDER

Dreaming about an annual toll pass to ease financial burden? Dream on, as Union Transport Minister has clarified that there is no such proposal

PAGE 6

As vehicle numbers increase, AI-powered traffic signals detecting 30,000 violations daily in city, data reveals: In 2024, till October, 69.73 lakh violations recorded, while in Feb this year, 10,82,883 cases booked

AI BROTHER IS WATCHING

Motorists worry about overdependence on tech, talk of wrongful fines

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With the increase in the number of vehicles hitting the roads in the city, the number of violations too have increased. Traffic signals based on artificial intelligence (AI) have been installed in many parts of the city. The traffic police data indicates that violation cases are being detected based on technology and 30,000 cases are being detected on a daily basis.

According to data, Bengaluru, with a current population of 1.40 crore, sees approximately 2,100 new vehicle registrations daily, bringing the total number of registered vehicles to 1.19 crore.

As the city's roads struggle to accommodate the ever-increasing vehicle density, the traffic police are leveraging AI to restore order.

From signal jumping and speeding to lane indiscipline and illegal parking, the automated system is leaving no rule-breaker unnoticed. Implemented by the Traffic Police in collaboration with the state's Transport Department, the AI-powered cameras and surveillance units have been installed at over 125 strategic locations across the city.

"The use of advanced enforcement measures is crucial in curbing reckless driving and ensuring adherence to traffic rules. Over time, this will lead to a significant improvement in road discipline, reducing accidents

—Traffic official

These high-tech units are equipped with machine learning algorithms, real-time image recognition, and automated number plate recognition (ANPR) technology.

According to officials, the AI system processes thousands of vehicle movements per minute, instantly flagging violations and generating e-challans.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Stop talking silt

BDA clarifies to green tribunal that silt-removal at Bellandur Lake stalled due to paucity of funds

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Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has submitted yet another report on the rejuvenation works of Bellandur Lake to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

In the report submitted on March 26, BDA has clarified that the silt-removing work at Bellandur has been stalled owing to lack of funds.

"BDA is awaiting the release of an additional grant from the government of Karnataka. Hence, despite (BDA's) best intentions to complete the work at the earliest, due to the lack of funds. BDA should be in a position to apprise NGT about additional grants within the next six weeks," said the report.

It also claims that while wetland formation work at the main inlet of Koramanagala and Agara valley is 30% complete, as much as 22.69 lakh cubic mt of silt, out of the total 32.33 lakh cubic mt, has0 been removed.

Residents of areas around the lake, however, say there are alarming gaps in governance, transparency, and accountability. They also raise concerns regarding fund misappropriation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Bollywood fiesta

AGP World is bringing its globally acclaimed musical comedy, Blame It On Bollywood. In collaboration with Yash Raj Films (YRF), Blame It On Bollywood is a vibrant celebration of Indian weddings infused with the timeless romance and iconic music from YRF's most beloved films. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: April 5, 7.30 pm**

02 Curtain call

AGP World is bringing 'Barff (Snow)', a Hindi play written and directed by actor Saurabh Shukla. The play transports viewers to the backdrop of Kashmir during winter, where the lives of three individuals become entangled in a web of unsettling questions. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: April 6, 7.30 pm**

03 Artistic journey

KYNKYNY Art Gallery is presenting 'Ephemeral Homelands', a solo exhibition showcasing the recent works of contemporary artist Siddharth Shingade. The exhibition invites viewers on a deeply personal journey through the rural landscapes of Marathwada, Maharashtra. **Where: KYNKYNY Art Gallery, Infantry Road; When: March 21 to April 18**

04 Run for a cause

Miles4Meals 2025, a marathon organized by IIIT-Bangalore in partnership with Akshaya Patra Foundation, is back with its 10K and 5K runs. This isn't just a race, it's a pledge to fight classroom hunger. With every stride, participants will contribute to providing nutritious mid-day meals for underprivileged children. **Where: IIIT-Bangalore Campus, Hosur Road; When: April 6**

05 Odisha Odyssey

BIC is celebrating Utkal Dibas with a lively debate on Cuttack vs Bhubaneswar, followed by Kalpa Rupa, an enchanting Odissi performance blending Sakhi-Radha energies through traditions and innovations. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: April 1**

HC overturns murder convict's life sentence

Court rejects doctors' claim citing superficial wounds with normal initial pulse rate and blood pressure disprove alleged connection to victim's death

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The bench maintained convictions under IPC sections 326 and 448, considering Annappa's use of a dangerous weapon and forceful entry into his sister's house

The Karnataka High Court has overturned a life sentence given to a man convicted of killing his sister, noting that the injuries documented in medical reports were unlikely to have caused death. A division bench of Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar and Justice KV Aravind altered the sentence of Annappa Bhandary whilst dismissing the conviction under IPC Sections 304 Part-I and 302.

Altercation turned violent

Prosecutors stated that Annappa Bhandary, a salon owner from Kundapura, Udupi district, had an altercation with his sister, Vijaya Bhandary, on July 22, 2018. Allegedly, he often demanded money from her and, on that day, attacked her with a knife. Vijaya sustained cuts on her left shoulder and right back, fell, and suffered further injuries. She received treatment at a Manipal private hospital but died on July 28, 2018.

The lower court evaluated the testimonies of Susheela and Kamalaaksha, who were the sister and nephew of the deceased Vijaya, respectively.

These individuals were presented as direct witnesses to the occurrence. The Court sentenced Annappa Bhandary to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of criminal trespass and murder. In appealing his conviction, Annappa Bhandary argued that the prosecution had relied on arranged witnesses while neglecting to question another sister, Vimala.

Medical professionals testified that cardiac arrest, attributed to injuries particularly to the neck, had caused Vijaya's death. The division bench rejected this connection, finding no established link between the injuries and cardiac arrest. The bench observed that the neck injury appeared to be superficial, causing no damage to the blood vessels in the neck region. "The pulse rate and the blood pressure noted in the initial stage were not abnormally high to expect any heart related issue or ailment. In this view, it is impossible to accept the opinions of the doctors that the cardiac arrest was due to injuries suffered by Vijaya Bhandary," the bench said.

The bench maintained convictions under IPC sections 326 and 448, considering Annappa's use of a dangerous weapon and forceful entry into his sister's house. Given his imprisonment since July 26, 2018, exceeding six years, the bench adjusted Annappa's sentence to time served and ordered him to pay Rs 10,000 as penalty.

High Court declares council's award void

The Karnataka High Court nullified an award issued by the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, stating that the Council lacked jurisdiction to make such a decision after failed conciliation.

A petitioner sought the High Court's intervention to invalidate the Council's award and requested directions for proper proceedings under Section 18 of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act. Justice Suraj Govindaraj determined that the award was issued without proper jurisdiction after failed conciliation, making it legally invalid.

The petitioner, a private infrastructure solutions company, placed a purchase order with the second respondent for materials worth Rs 22,570,000, with a gross value of Rs 25,886,845.04. Due to incomplete payment, the second respondent initiated conciliation under Section 18 of the MSMED Act. The Council awarded payment of Rs 11,88,756 as principal dues plus interest at triple the RBI bank rate. The petitioner contested this award in the High Court. The Court explained that Section 18(3) requires that upon failed conciliation, the Council must terminate proceedings and either conduct arbitration itself or refer it to an appropriate dispute resolution centre under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

The Court annulled the order and instructed the Karnataka Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council to formally end conciliation, and decide within 30 days whether to conduct arbitration internally or refer it externally. **— BMB**

New applications for BPL cards halted

The online portal for applying for Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards has remained inactive for two years, and new applications are still not being accepted. Currently, around 2.94 lakh applicants across the state are waiting for their BPL cards, but the Food and Civil Supplies Department has confirmed that fresh applications are not allowed. The portal, which was suspended before the Congress government took office, has not been reopened. However, applications from individuals with health issues and laborers are being considered, subject to approval by district deputy directors and the food department commissioner.

Sources said that when the Congress government came to power, BPL card applications were temporarily halted to prevent misuse for availing government guarantees. The Department has stated that the previous eligibility criteria will continue unless new guidelines are issued.

Applications under review

A Food and Civil Supplies Department official said that before the enforcement of the election code of conduct in 2022-23, 2.94 lakh people had applied for BPL cards. The official noted that these applications are under review, and only eligible individuals, excluding car owners, property owners, and taxpayers, will receive cards. "Currently, Karnataka has 1.28 crore BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards, benefiting over 4.42 crore people. As of now, no new BPL cards are being issued. However, those with serious health conditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis," the official said. **— BMB**

BU's staff management to be privatised?

The Bangalore University (BU) is considering outsourcing the management of its 381 contract employees to a private agency, triggering concerns among its workforce. These employees, who have been serving on contract at the Jnana Bharathi campus for over a decade, receive low wages and lack provident fund benefits, despite repeated protests demanding job regularisation. Before its trifurcation, Bangalore University managed over 700 colleges, but post-split, the number has reduced to 195. The Higher Education Department had previously questioned the necessity of retaining such a large number of contract workers and had even directed their termination. However, after massive protests, the dismissal order was revoked, and employees were given a ₹4,000 salary hike.

Recently, the university invited tenders from private HR service providers to take over the management of contract employees. The administration believes the move will reduce salary expenses, as the agency would handle employee payments, eliminating direct financial dealings between the University and its contract workers.

Dr SM Jayakar, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University, said that managing contract workers had become challenging for the University. "Most universities have already outsourced such services, and we are considering doing the same. The final decision will be taken in the next syndicate meeting," he said.

Employee representatives oppose the decision, stating that outsourcing would push hundreds of workers into job insecurity. "These employees have dedicated years to the University despite low wages. Instead of regularising them, outsourcing their management is unfair and will leave many jobless. The University must reconsider its decision," said Shivappa, President of Bangalore University Contract Employees Welfare Association. **— BMB**

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Action taken: New bins set up at Church Street

Citizens welcome move, but experts stress on proper use, waste segregation and regular maintenance

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New dustbins have finally been installed on Church Street, a move welcomed by residents and social activists. They said that the dustbins not only enhance the street's aesthetics but also help prevent littering.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – Missing bins leave dirty picture on Church Street – on March 28 narrating how dustbins were removed due to damage and misuse by vendors and how paan stains have become an eyesore.

Bangalore Mirror
Missing bins leave dirty picture on Church Street

BM published a story – Missing bins leave dirty picture on Church Street – on March 28

Welcoming the installation of dustbins on Church Street, Brahmananda Reddy, Vice President of the Church Street and Rest House Welfare Association, urged residents and shop owners to refrain from disposing of waste in the newly installed bins, as they are meant for the floating population.

"The authorities responsible for Church Street's maintenance should take steps to raise awareness among residents and shop owners about the importance of proper waste disposal," he said. According to Niranjan Muralidhar of Let Us Be Change, the newly installed dustbins on Church Street are made from recycled plastic. "We have installed five dustbins and will put up posters on them to remind residents and shop owners not to dispose of waste in these bins, as they are meant for the floating population," he said.

> **"Bins must separate wet and dry waste for better utility, not just aesthetics** – Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

Arun Pai, Founder of Bangalore WALKS, emphasized that the effectiveness of a dustbin depends on the quality and frequency of its maintenance. "I strongly recommend deploying full-time housekeeping staff for high-footfall streets like Church Street to ensure proper management of the bins, with servicing ideally every two hours," he said.

Meanwhile, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation emphasised that for Bengaluru to match Indore's cleanliness standards, uniform waste segregation is essential across the city. "It's not just about aesthetics but about utility—bins should separate wet and dry waste using a color-coded system, in line with Swachh Survekshan principles, to prevent landfill overflow. Encouraging proper segregation is crucial and mandated by the BBMP. We need to move beyond vanity-driven designs to practical, user-friendly solutions. Sweden has reduced landfill waste to just 1 percent through six-way segregation, and it's time we learn and act,"

BANGALORE MIRROR IMPACT

University land eyed for skydeck

As BBMP's search for land continues, environmental concerns mount over Bangalore University's selection, with activists opposing the project due to its impact on greenery and biodiversity

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that the complainant, Gaddam Satya shri filed a suit numbered C.C. No. 409 of 2024 before the HON'BLE DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION III – AT HYDERABAD against Byju's Think & Learn Pvt. Ltd. stating the failure of commencement of classes and closure of the Byju's institute at Gold Leaf Estates, Fourth Floor, Narayanguda, Hyderabad before the completion of her course period of two years(i.e., from 26 November, 2022 to 31 December, 2024) caused her a great trouble in her UPSC preparation and she prays the hon'ble court to grant compensation of RUPEES FIFTEEN LAKHS and pass the decree in her favour. If anyone has any objection or any claims against the complainant's claim, they shall appear before the hon'ble court on 25 April, 2025 along with the relevant documents, otherwise the above matter will be decided according to the law. Hence this notice.

Sd/- **Gaddam Satya shri,**
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The search for land to build South Asia's tallest skydeck has become a game of shifting locations. BBMP initially considered the Mysore Sandal Soap Factory, then moved to NGEF, explored the Racecourse, evaluated Majestic, assessed Whitefield's Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation, examined GKVK, and even looked at Hemmigepura and NICE Road. Now, the latest proposed site is Jnana Bharathi, the Bangalore University campus. However, each location faces hurdles—aviation restrictions, environmental concerns, or public opposition—leaving the civic body's pursuit of the perfect spot ongoing amid growing resistance.A few months ago, BBMP had written to Bangalore University, urging them to propose a suitable 200–300-acre land parcel.

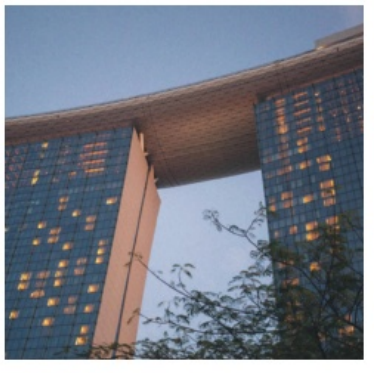
> **"This project claims to boost tourism, but at what cost? Jnana Bharathi is an academic sanctuary, not a commercial venture** – Dr TJ Renuka Prasad

Project aimed at attracting investments

The skydeck initiative is part of BBMP's plan to boost tourism and attract investments across various sectors. Initially estimated at ₹250 crore, the project's cost has now doubled to ₹500 crore. The idea gained momentum after Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar visited New York last year and was inspired to bring a similar structure to Bengaluru.

Environmental concerns and opposition

Environmentalists and academics have strongly opposed the proposal, raising concerns over the shrinking green cover in Jnana Bharathi's 1,201-acre campus. Known for its biodiversity, medicinal plants, and thousands of trees, the area has already suffered significant loss due to rapid urbanisation. Retired professor and geologist Dr TJ Renuka Prasad criticised the move, stating, "Bangalore University should remain an academic space, not a commercial hub. The campus is already burdened with concrete structures, and further development will worsen pollution and disrupt the learning environment."



Environmentalists have now written to the Governor, urging intervention to stop BBMP from acquiring university land for the project. Despite mounting opposition, BBMP has initiated formal proceedings to acquire land in Jnana Bharathi, sparking debates on balancing urban development with environmental sustainability.

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Accident risk

Airport Road

Stone jelly fragments scattered at the turn from 7th to 8th Main Road in Mico Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, after recent sewage bridge construction, are causing two-wheelers to skid dangerously.

Left unfinished

Sriramapuram

BWSSB dug up roads for repair work months ago at 4th Cross, 9th Main Intersection, Sriramapuram, but left the road damaged, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Waste mess

Ananthapura

Sewage overflow near Prestige Monte Carlo Apartment Back Gate, Ananthapura Main Road, is worsening due to poor drainage and indiscriminate garbage dumping.

No-exit: Rude shock for disabled at Cubbon Park

After guard turns away family, park officials ask its personnel to be courteous to visitors, facilitate access

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Is Cubbon Park disabled-friendly? It seems not, if an unfortunate argument that took place on Sunday is any indication. The alleged callous attitude of the security guard compelled one person with disability (PwD) to go home in tears after all the efforts of his relatives to convince the guard to open the gate for them failed.

"We did not have any hassles with the security guards while entering Cubbon Park through the gate near the High Court. The security guard at the gate on Kasturba Road near UB City was adamant and refused to open the gate. I was accompanying my cousin who suffers from ALS. Finally, a traffic police constable came to our rescue and helped us exit from the gate," said Darshana Ramdev.

She said that the guard came rushing towards them wielding lathi towards us when they asked him to open the gate. "My cousin, due to stress, became fully stiff and he started crying. Do these people not know how to treat human beings? We have some people to help us. What about voiceless people with disabilities who come to Cubbon Park?" she asks.

When this correspondent visited the spot on Monday,

The raised footpath near one entry gate of Cubbon Park on Kasturba Road makes access difficult

the guard repented that he was rude to the people accompanying a person with disability. "I will not be rude towards people with disabilities in future," the security guard said.

Meanwhile, Madhankumar, supervisor of security guards, told BM that he has advised the security guard to behave properly with people who visit Cubbon Park.

Some parents who brought their infants in prams too found it tough to enter through the gate on Kasturba Road near UB City. They said the surface of the footpath is above one foot from the road and they have to lift the pram onto the footpath to enter the park through the entryway. "The footpath is not friendly to children or people with disabilities. It will be a great help if the footpath has a slope to facilitate wheelchairs or prams," said Karuna, a homemaker.

Expressing concern over the lack of accessibility to people with disabilities, TL Ramesh, a resident from Vasanth Nagar who visits Cubbon Park for a walk regularly, said the horticulture department has to make the park disabilities friendly. "We have advised Bengaluru Smart City Limited authorities to make footpaths in Cubbon Park disabilities friendly when the developmental works are taken up," said Ramesh.

Meanwhile, Horticulture Department Deputy Director (Cubbon Park) Kusuma said that she has already advised guards to be courteous towards people with disabilities. "I have already instructed them to open the gate whenever a person with a disability wants to enter Cubbon Park. I am not happy with the unfortunate incident that took place on Sunday. I will look into it," the Deputy Director said.

However, Das Suryawanshi, State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act said that he would write a letter to the Deputy Director of Cubbon Park to ensure footpaths for people with disabilities. "I will ask the Deputy Deputy Director to sensitise security guards to treat people with disabilities properly," he said.

Suitcase murder: Cops seek custody of accused techie

The Hulimavu police are preparing to file a petition in court seeking custody of Rakesh Rajendra Khedekar, a software engineer accused of murdering his wife, Gauri Anil Sambrekar. Khedekar, who is currently in judicial custody, allegedly killed Gauri and stuffed her body into a suitcase before fleeing to Pune.

The body of Gauri, 32, originally from Mumbai, was found inside a suitcase at the couple's rented duplex house in Doddakammanahalli village on March 27. According to investigators, Khedekar allegedly stabbed her to death in a fit of rage before attempting to conceal the crime. He then fled the city and reportedly attempted suicide in Pune, where he was admitted to a hospital.

Following his discharge, Bengaluru police brought him back to the city and presented him before the court, which remanded him to 14 days of judicial custody. However, police officials have yet to interrogate him in detail regarding the crime.

Sources indicate that the police need to conduct a thorough investigation to determine the motive behind the murder, reconstruct the sequence of events, and collect additional evidence. To do so, they plan to seek his custody for questioning and a spot inspection (mahazar) at the crime scene.

Officers are now awaiting a health report from doctors before moving forward with their petition for police custody.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the accused committed the horrific crime in a fit of rage. However, he has not yet disclosed the exact motive behind the murder of his 32-year-old wife, Gauri Rajendra Khedkar, who was also his close relative.

Rakesh's father, Rajendra Khedkar, stated that the deceased Gauri was his

Sources indicate that the police need to conduct a thorough probe to determine the motive behind the murder

sister's daughter. He added that their family had disapproved of Rakesh and Gauri's marriage. Gauri had been frequently quarrelling with both families over their marriage, and the disputes had even reached the police station. According to him, the quarrels continued even after their marriage.

Police say that the accused appears remorseful and has been mostly silent. Once they take him into custody, they expect to uncover the exact motive and details of how the crime was committed. **(BMB with inputs from agencies)**

Rowdy elements attack man over old grudge

A young gas cylinder supplier, Naveen Kumar, was brutally attacked by a group of men in Vighnaswarnagar, allegedly over an old grudge. The incident occurred on the morning of March 28, and a case has been registered against multiple accused.

According to the complaint filed by Naveen, he was returning home from work on the night of March 27 when he was confronted near Lakshmi Wines by a group of acquaintances, including Apple Santosh, Dande Shiva, Kiran, Revanth, and Ravi. They allegedly threatened him, asking if he would pay a price for his arrogance.

The next morning, Naveen called Kari Kiran to ask about the previous night's altercation. Later, while he and his friend Chandrasekhar Abhi were sitting outside his aunt Lakshmi's house, a group of attackers arrived in two cars and two bikes. Revanth, wielding a long knife, struck Chandrasekhar on his left hand, while he and another accused, Complex Abhi, attacked Naveen on the head.

Naveen managed to escape into his aunt's house, but the group followed him inside and continued their assault. He was saved when his aunt raised an alarm, forcing the attackers to flee. Naveen alleges that the attack was premeditated, orchestrated by Dande Shiva due to past enmity.

Based on his complaint, the police have registered a case against Kari Kiran, Dande Shiva, Santosh, Revanth, Abhi, Thure, Ravi, Giri, and others. Of these, they have arrested Kari Kiran, Dandhe Shiva, Revanth, Suresh, and Sidda and are on the lookout for the remaining accused. **—BMB**

Eid celebrations

Children offer namaz at Idgah Maidan on the occasion of 'Eid-ul-Fitr' festival,on Monday

Man dies in bike crash near BEL Road

A 25-year-old man lost his life after the bike he was riding pillion crashed into a roadside tree near BEL Road in the Sadashivanagar traffic police station limits early Monday morning.

The deceased, identified as Vijay Madaki (25), hailed from Assam. His friend, Suhail (20), who hails from Meghalaya, was riding the bike. He has sustained serious injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. Both worked at a supermarket in BEL and lived in the same building.

According to the police, the duo had gone to Shivajinagar for tea and later went shopping for clothes. While returning around 4:10 am, Suhail reportedly lost control of the bike near the Ayyappa Swamy Temple on BEL Road, resulting in the crash. Passersby alerted the authorities, and the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital. However, Madaki was declared dead due to a severe head injury. Suhail remains in critical condition. **—BMB**

ADVT

Standard Chartered Bank Empowers Higher Education for Students with Disabilities

Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), in partnership with Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, has transformed higher education opportunities for 3,500 students with disabilities across 10 states. Through its sustained commitment, SCB has played a pivotal role in eliminating barriers, fostering accessibility, and driving economic empowerment.

This initiative has supported 1,350 visually impaired students (39%) and 1,860 girls with disabilities (53%), ensuring their enrollment, retention, and academic success across 725 colleges and 95 universities. SCB's funding has facilitated digital labs, assistive technologies, accessible infrastructure, and competitive exam coaching, paving the way for students to pursue PhDs, MBBS, MBA, and engineering degrees.

At the SCB-Higher Education Impact Conclave hosted by Samarthanam, a white paper detailing the organization's achievements and future requirements in higher education for students with disabilities was presented to Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka. Acknowledging Samarthanam's impact, Dr. Sudhakar assured his support and promised to connect the initiative with key bureaucrats to explore further opportunities, including the allotment of land to establish an inclusive global university and sports facilities for persons with disabilities.

Ms. Karuna Bhatia, Head – Sustainability, SCB & GBS India, stated:"At Standard Chartered, we believe education transforms lives. Our collaboration with Samarthanam ensures that students with disabilities have the resources and opportunities to excel. Together, we are breaking barriers and building an inclusive future."

HAL hits revenue milestone

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recorded a revenue of Rs 30,400 crores (provisional and unaudited) for the financial year that ended March 31, 2025, as against Rs 30,381 crores during the previous year.

"This achievement was despite the shortfall in deliveries of LCA and ALH. The deliveries of LCA were affected due to the non-availability of engines. The ALH delivery schedule also got hit due to the accident in January 2025 and the subsequent grounding of the Fleet. However, the deliveries of other products and services were accelerated, which helped us to maintain the top line," said Dr DK Sunil, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of HAL.

With the Company's order book significantly improving in the last 12 months, the company used the year to add capacities as additional lines for LCA and HTT-40 were put up, besides augmenting the aero engine capacity at Koraput. The order book stood at Rs 1,84,000 crores as against the opening order book position of Rs 94,129 crores and after adjusting the current year's liquidation.

During the year 2024-25, HAL received new manufacturing contracts worth Rs 1,02,000 crores and ROH contracts worth Rs 17,500 crores. Recently, the company signed a contract with the MoD for the supply of 156 LCH Prachand worth Rs. 62,777 crores. This is the single biggest procurement by the MoD from HAL to date. Other highlights of 2024-25 were HAL becoming the first Defence PSU to achieve the prestigious `Maharatna' status, contracts signed for the supply of an additional 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft, the mid-life Upgrade (MLU) of 40 Do-228 aircraft and others. **– ANI**

Wish denied: No plan to introduce annual toll pass

Union Transport Minister says user fees collected apply to all sections of National Highways; State tops in terms of collection

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Amid reports suggesting the introduction of an annual toll pass to ease the financial burden on commuters, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has clarified that no such proposal is currently under consideration. Responding to a query in the Rajya Sabha, Gadkari stated that user fees are collected as per the National Highway Fee Rules and apply to all sections of a National Highway.

"As per the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, toll charges are levied as per the Concession Agreement until the end of the concession period. After that, the government or the executing authority continues collecting tolls according to the rules, with annual revisions," he explained.

For publicly funded highway projects, toll collection continues indefinitely, with periodic fee revisions in accordance with regulations. In the case of Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) projects, once the concession period ends, the toll plaza is handed over to the government, and user fees continue to be collected through designated agencies. Gadkari also emphasised that toll collection at National Highway fee plazas is perpetual, and there is no requirement for an audit to reassess investments and revenue for reconsidering or closing toll plazas.

> **"As per the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, toll charges are levied as per the Concession Agreement until the end of the concession period**
> – Nitin Gadkari, Union Transport Minister

State's toll revenue has grown steadily over past five years, increasing from Rs 1,814.29 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 3,959.52 crore in 2023-24

Meanwhile, Karnataka has consistently ranked among the top states in toll collection on national highways. The state's toll revenue has grown steadily over the past five years, increasing from ₹1,814.29 crore in 2019-20 to ₹3,959.52 crore in 2023-24.

This marks a significant rise of ₹2,145.23 crore, reflecting the growing reliance on highway infrastructure. Nationally, Karnataka stands among the top five states in toll revenue generation.

IN BRIEF

Stolen SBI gold recovered from TN well

A Karnataka Police team has cracked the SBI bank theft case reported from Nyamati in Davanagere district in October 2024, arresting six people and recovering over 17 kg of stolen gold worth ₹13 crore. Some of the loot was found in a remote well in a village in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district, officials said.

The case posed a major challenge for the police as the gang executed the heist without leaving behind fingerprints, CCTV footage, toll data, or phone records.

The arrested accused were identified as Vijay Kumar, 30, Ajay Kumar, 28, Abheesheka, 23, Chandru, 23, Manjunath, 32, and Paramananda, 30. Vijay and Ajay are brothers, while Paramananda is their brother-in-law. Originally from Tamil Nadu, they ran a sweets business in Nyamati. Vijay Kumar, the alleged mastermind, planned the heist to overcome financial troubles. His choice of the SBI Nyamati branch was reportedly influenced by his ₹15 lakh loan application being rejected in August 2023. **—IANS**

BJP plans protests against price rise

Th The BJP in Karnataka has announced a series of protests against the Congress-led government, accusing it of burdening the poor and engaging in "appeasement tactics." State BJP president BY Vijayendra said the party would launch continuous agitations to pressure the government into withdrawing its recent decisions. He announced an overnight protest at Freedom Park on April 2, starting at 11 am. **— ANI**

BM Trippin' Tales

Musical stones, prehistoric carvings discovered near Hampi's Karekallu hill

A team of researchers has discovered musical stones near Devalapura's Karekallu hillock, close to Dharmasagar village in Hospet. Similar to the famous musical pillars of the Vijaya Vittala Temple in Hampi, these stones produce distinct musical notes when gently tapped.

Musical Resonance in Ancient Stones

Nestled within the Karekallu hill range, the site features four to five large boulders that emit musical sounds when struck. Among them, one stands out due to its unique size—eight feet in height and four feet in width. Nearby, three horizontally positioned boulders also produce distinct notes when tapped. Experts believe prehistoric humans may have discovered these properties long ago, as percussion marks are still visible on the stones. While similar musical stones have been documented at Sanganakallu, a well-known prehistoric site, the Karekallu hill stones are distinguished by their unique tonal qualities.

> **Musical stones, similar to those in Hampi's Vijaya Vittala Temple, discovered near Devalapura, producing distinct notes when tapped; petroglyphs dating back to 3000 BCE also seen at site**

Prehistoric Petroglyphs Discovered

Alongside the musical stones, researchers have uncovered ancient petroglyphs dating back to around 3000 BCE, indicating early human habitation in the region. The carvings depict various animals, including a striking six-inch-tall and four-inch-wide figure of a goat with a human figure behind it. Other engravings feature tigers, hunting scenes, and tall human figures. Unfortunately, many of these carvings have suffered erosion due to prolonged exposure to wind, rain, and sunlight. Dr Govind has urged the Archaeological Department and local authorities to take immediate steps to protect and preserve these invaluable historical artifacts. **— BMB**

Shoot at site: To capture heritage on his lens

Renowned Australian photographer John Gollings, who first captured Hampi through his lens in 1983, has returned to document the historic site once again. Over the past few days, he has been photographing Hampi's architectural wonders from a fresh perspective. His latest visit aims to reframe and showcase the grandeur of this UNESCO World Heritage site, continuing his efforts to highlight its historical and cultural significance.

April-June to be hotter than normal

Heatwave days may double in some states, including parts of K'taka: IMD

India is expected to experience hotter-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains, the IMD said on Monday.

Most parts of the country will see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures, except for some areas in western and eastern India where the temperatures are expected to be normal. Minimum temperatures will also be above normal in most regions, India Meteorological Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in an online press conference. "From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central India, and the plains of northwest India are expected to experience two to four more heatwave days than normal," he said.

Usually, India records four to seven heatwave days from April to June.

States likely to see above-normal heatwave days include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the northern parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Some states, including eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, are expected to have 10 to 11 heatwave days during this period, Mohapatra said.

In April, most parts of India will likely witness higher-than-usual maximum temperatures. However, some areas in the extreme southern and the northwestern regions may experience normal temperatures.

Minimum temperatures will be higher than usual across most of the country, except for a few places in the northwest and the northeast where temperatures may be normal or slightly below normal, the IMD chief said.

Last week, the central government asked states to check if their hospitals were ready to handle heatstroke and heat-related illnesses amid a rise in temperatures.

India experienced an exceptionally harsh summer last year, recording 536 heatwave days, the highest in 14 years, according to the IMD.

Official data showed that India recorded 41,789 suspected heat stroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths during one of its hottest and longest heat waves. —PTI

Remittance record

$129.4 bn: Record breaking sum sent home by overseas Indians in 2024

$ 36 bn: Highest-ever inflows in the December quarter alone

$ 100 bn: Country received as remittances for the third year in a row

Remittances by the diaspora surged **63%** since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

Migratory birds

Globally it has been among the top recipients for over 25 years since the information technology boom in the nineties and has been consistently occupying the top most place since 2008

India's stock of international migrants has tripled from 6.6 million in 1990 to 18.5 million in 2024, with its share in global migrants rising from 4.3 per cent to over 6 per cent during the same period

—(Source: ET Online)

CLOSERHOME

India rejects NYT report on defence firm

A report in The New York Times linking a company that is part of a British aerospace major to a state-run Indian defence firm claiming that the latter has ties with a Russian arms agency is "factually incorrect" and "misleading", official sources said on Monday.

The report suggested that military hardware supplied by the British firm to the Indian company may have found its way to the Russian agency Rosoboronexport.

The report has "tried to frame issues and distort facts to suit a political narrative", the sources said, adding the media outlet "overlooked" basic due diligence. "The Indian entity mentioned in the report has scrupulously followed all its international obligations on strategic trade controls and end-user commitments," said a source. "India's robust legal and regulatory framework on strategic trade continues to guide overseas commercial ventures by its companies," it said. PTI

Rahul writes to PM to stop offshore mining

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking cancellation of tenders permitting offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Flagging the threat to marine life, the Congress leader said opening up offshore mining blocks to private players without any rigorous assessment of its impact was concerning. "I write to you to strongly condemn the central government's decision to permit offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman & Nicobar," he said in his letter to the prime minister.

Gandhi said coastal communities have been protesting against the manner in which tenders for offshore mining have been floated. PTI

'Woman can't be forced to undergo virginity test'

A woman cannot be forced to undergo a virginity test as it violates Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees her fundamental right to protection of life and liberty, including the right to dignity, the Chhattisgarh High Court has said.

Emphasising that Article 21 is the "heart of fundamental rights", the HC said granting permission for a virginity test would be against the "fundamental rights, cardinal principles of natural justice and secret modesty of a female". Justice Arvind Kumar Verma made the observation in response to a criminal petition filed by a man who demanded his wife's virginity test, alleging she was in an illicit relationship with another man, challenging a family court's order dated October 15, 2024 which rejected the interim application.

The wife had alleged her husband was impotent and refused to cohabit.

The HC said if the petitioner wants to prove the allegations of impotency are baseless, he can undergo the medical test concerned or produce any other evidence. "He cannot possibly be permitted to subject the wife to undergo her virginity test and fill up the lacuna in his evidence," said the HC order. PTI

AROUNDTHEWORLD

Myanmar quake toll rises to 2,056

The death toll from the 7.7-magnitude earthquake in Myanmar has risen to 2,056, with approximately 3,900 people injured and nearly 270 reported missing, according to the country's State Administration Council Information Team on Monday.

International and domestic rescuers have been racing against time to save more lives in the quake-affected areas, Xinhua news agency reported.

Earlier in the day, Myanmar's State Administration Council's Chairman, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, announced a week-long mourning period following the deadly earthquake.

In recognition of and sympathy for the damage and loss of lives caused by the earthquake, the period from March 31 to April 6 has been declared national mourning days. During this time, the national flag will be flown at half-mast, he said.

Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology reported that 36 aftershocks, with magnitudes ranging from 2.8 to 7.5, have occurred as of Monday morning. IANS

NDRF personnel from India carry out rescue operation in Myanmar

Opinions split over Le Pen ruling

The thunderclap court ruling barring far-right politician Marine Le Pen from office for the immediate future reverberated across the political spectrum of France and Europe on Monday.

Her supporters branded the verdict an assault on democracy while detractors reacted with fist-pumping celebration, though even some of her critics wondered whether the court decision went too far.

Long seen as a top contender for France's 2027 presidential election and a potential leader-in-waiting of the Eurozone's second economy, Le Pen was convicted of embezzling European Union funds and barred from holding public office for five years.

The ruling drew swift and scathing responses from Le Pen's political kin across Europe, many of whom viewed the court's decision as an existential threat to their own movements.

"I am shocked by the incredibly tough verdict against Marine Le Pen. I support and believe in her 100% and I trust she will win the appeal and become President of France," said Dutch far-right leader Geert Wilders.

In Italy, Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini warned, "The ruling against Marine Le Pen is a declaration of war by Brussels." AP

'Russia, US talking peace'

The Kremlin said on Monday Russia and the United States were working on ideas for a possible peace settlement in Ukraine and on building bilateral ties despite U.S. President Donald Trump saying that he was "pissed off" with Vladimir Putin.

Trump told NBC News he was very angry after the Russian leader criticised the credibility of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, and the U.S. president suggested he could impose secondary tariffs of 25%-50% on buyers of Russian oil.

Trump later reiterated to reporters he was disappointed with Putin but added: "I think we are making progress, step by step."

Asked about Trump's comments, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow was continuing to work with Washington and that Putin remained open to contacts with Trump.

"We are continuing to work with the American side, first of all, to build our bilateral relations, which were badly damaged during the previous (U.S.) administration," Peskov said.

"And we are also working on the implementation of some ideas related to the Ukrainian settlement. This work is underway, but so far there are no specifics that we could or should tell you about. This is a time-consuming process, probably due to its complexity."

A call between Trump and Putin, he said, could be set up at short notice if necessary, though none was scheduled for this week. Reuters

Jumping signals top offence, wrongful parking second

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"AI technology is now augmenting human enforcement. With the implementation of AI-driven surveillance and automated monitoring systems, nearly 30,000 traffic violations are being detected daily. This surge in detections comes at a time when vehicle population is steadily increasing, adding to the challenges of traffic management.

The use of advanced enforcement measures is crucial in curbing reckless driving and ensuring adherence to traffic rules. Over time, this will lead to a significant improvement in road discipline, reducing accidents and making our streets safer for all road users," said a traffic police official

Case comparison

The comparative statement of Motor Vehicle Act cases in Bengaluru from 2022 to 2024 (up to October 31) presents the number of traffic violations recorded each year. In 2022, authorities registered 1.04 crore cases, while in 2023, the total stood at 89.99 lakh cases. By 2024, up to October 31, the reported cases reached 69.73 lakh.

Over 10.8 lakh cases in Feb

A staggering 10,82,883 cases booked under the Motor Vehicles Act (MV Act) in February 2025 alone. From reckless driving to illegal parking, the city's traffic police are grappling with a surge in violations.

Among the most common offences, jumping traffic signals led the charts with 1,08,134 cases, followed by wrong parking at 1,31,535 cases. Shockingly, a whopping 3,61,364 riders were caught without helmets, endangering lives in a city already struggling with road safety. Pillion riders without helmets weren't far behind, with 1,94,254 violations recorded.

Drunken driving remains a pressing concern, with 6,399 motorists caught under the influence, while 8,794 were booked for using mobile phones behind the wheel. Speeding and reckless driving added to the chaos, with 5,593 and 1,066 cases, respectively. Even public transport violations made the list—1,275 drivers were caught without uniforms, and 192 refused to go on hire. Meanwhile, footpath riding (3,453 cases) and triple riding (23,535 cases) highlighted how flouting the rules has become a norm.

Dose of skepticism

While many citizens have welcomed AI-driven enforcement as a step towards better traffic discipline and road behaviour, others remain skeptical. Some commuters argue that technology alone cannot solve Bengaluru's traffic woes without comprehensive urban planning and infrastructure upgrades.

Some motorists also expressed concerns over false detections and lack of awareness regarding the AI-based systems.

"I received a fine for jumping a signal, but I didn't. Sometimes the system makes mistakes, and contesting such fines is a hassle," a commuter stated.

"It's good that the police are using technology to curb violations, but sometimes, the system wrongly detects violations," said Arvind, a commuter.

Human bones mystery in M'luru

A packet of processed human bones discovered near a residential compound in Kumpala, Mangaluru, has prompted swift action from the Ullal police.

The bones, spotted on Saturday night, were recovered following a tip-off from a resident.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that the bones were inadvertently discarded by a woman employed at the residence of a retired doctor in Mangaluru. According to police, the woman had recently transported household items from the doctor's vacated residence, unknowingly including a packet of laboratory-processed bones. Upon realising the bones were unwanted, she discarded the packet near her property.

The discovery came to light when a young man, searching the area for a rented costume he had lost after a performance at a local organisation's event, stumbled upon the packet and alerted police. His unexpected find drew the attention of curious residents, leading to police involvement. The lab-processed nature of the bones has raised questions regarding their origin and intended use. **PTI**

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I Neeraj Anilkumar Agrawal, S/o Anil kumar Agrawal, R/o Chikkanagamangala, Bangalore, have changed my name from Niraj Agrawal to Neeraj Anilkumar Agrawal for all future purpose vide affidavit IN-KA94954452925632X dated 29-03-2025 Notary public/Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S. SAI MANOHAR**, S/o Y. SRINIVASA REDDY, aged about 43 years, R/o #56, Sri Sai Srinivasa Complex, DVG Road, Bagepalli, Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka state - 561207. My Father name is wrongly entered as SRINIVASA REDDY instead of **Y. SRINIVASA REDDY** in my passport No. 23209003. Therefore I have sworn before Y. Lakshmipathy Reddy, Advocate & Notary Dated: 27/03/2025. Henceforth my father's name should be given as **Y. SRINIVASA REDDY.**

I VANESSA TAYLOR MONISSE D/o FRANCIS TAYLOR R/o RT Nagar Post Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to VANESSA JEAN TAYLOR vide Aff.No IN-KA94871202777695X

I, Ujwala Patil R/o Flat.12-1325, 7th main, Mahalakshmipuram Lyt, Bengaluru 560086 have changed my name to Ujwala Suresh Patil Affidavit Dt.11/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Sankeerth Gunjur Ganesh S/O Ganesh.G.K., Residing At, No 389, Gunjur, Gunjur Post, Bengaluru 560087 have changed my name to Sankeerth Ganesh For All Purposes.

I Vanessa Taylor Monisse D/O, Francis Taylor R/o 6th Cross Dinnur Main Road Rt Nagar Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Vanessa Jean Taylor vide affidavit no. IN-KA94871202777695X

I Girish S S/o Suresh Bhat R/o 24,2nd Crs,Hanuman L/o, Ramachandrapura, Jalahalli B'lore-13 declare the names (1)Girisha in SSLC(2)Girish S in all records are one and the same for all purposes declared before Notary.

I, Yashoda Shekar Venkateshappa w/o Shekar Narayanappa, R/o A-58 Maurya Nilaya Smilee Greens Prestige Garden Estate Club Huskur Road Gulimangala Bengaluru Rural-560099 Have changed my name to Yashodha Venkateshappa for all purposes

I, AROOSA FALAK, R/o. 2/6 Jamia Masjid Road, RMV 2nd Stage, Bhoopasandra, Bangalore 560094, i have changed my name from "AROOSA FALAK" to "AROOSA FALAK JUKKA" before Notary Sri. JALANDHARA, Date:29.03.2025

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Resume work at Bellandur Lake, citizens demand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The desilting and rejuvenation work was originally scheduled for completion in October 2023. With monsoon only a few months away, any further delay would result in losing the entire 2025 working season, setting the project back by at least another year. Citizens demand that the government of Karnataka find alternate funding sources immediately to prevent this from happening," said Sonali Singh, Citizen Changemaker, Bellandur Lake.

Locals also allege that while Rs 200 crore was allocated to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for sewage treatment, 100% untreated sewage is currently flowing into the lake. Treated water is instead being diverted to Kolar.

"This blatant violation of the rejuvenation plan undermines the entire effort. Citizens demand that only treated water be allowed into Bellandur Lake as mandated by the NGT," added Singh.

Notably, in 2018, NGT had asked the state government to deposit Rs 500 crore in an escrow account for the rejuvenation of Bellandur and Varthur lakes. BDA initiated the rejuvenation work of Bellandur in 2020 and had earlier committed to completing the work by December 2024.

There has been a sharp rise in solid waste dumping, breaches in fencing, and fresh illegal construction in Ambedkar Nagar slum, claim locals. They say that, given the circumstances, immediate restoration of physical security measures is critical to safeguard what has been achieved so far.

BBMP marshals—deployed to prevent such violations—have not been paid since May 2024 and are now unable to function effectively.

"Surveillance cameras and streetlights around the lake have been defunct for over three years. Bellandur Lake's rejuvenation is a necessity for Bengaluru's water security, environmental balance, and public health. The state government should immediately release additional funds and resume all halted work," said a resident of the area.

HEALTH TIP: The biggest contributor to premature aging is UV radiation

A broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 50) with PA++++ is non-negotiable, even indoors

BangaloreMirror | 9
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ALL ABOUT MEASLES

Virologist talks about effects of infectious disease

The measles outbreak that began in west Texas in late January 2025 continues to grow, with 400 confirmed cases in Texas and more than 50 in New Mexico and Oklahoma as of March 28.

Public health experts believe the numbers are much higher, however, and some worry about a bigger resurgence of the disease in the U.S. In the past two weeks, health officials have identified potential measles exposures in association with planes, trains and automobiles, including at Washington Dulles International Airport and on an Amtrak train from New York City to Washington, D.C. – as well as at health care facilities where the infected people sought medical attention.

Measles infections can be extremely serious. So far in 2025, 14% of the people who got measles had to be hospitalised. Last year, that number was 40%. Measles can damage the lungs and immune system, and also inflict permanent brain damage. Three in 1,000 people who get the disease die. But because measles vaccination programs in the U.S. over the past 60 years have been highly successful, few Americans under 50 have experienced measles directly, making it easy to think of the infection as a mere childhood rash with fever.

As a biologist who studies how viruses infect and kill cells and tissues, I believe it is important for people to understand how dangerous a measles infection can be.

Underappreciated acute effects

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases on the planet. One person who has it will infect nine out of 10 people nearby if those people are unvaccinated. A two-dose regimen of the vaccine, however, is 97% effective at preventing measles.

When the measles virus infects a person, it binds to specific proteins on the surface of cells. It then inserts its genome and replicates, destroying the cells in the process. This first happens in the upper respiratory tract and the lungs, where the virus can damage the person's ability to breathe well. In both places, the virus also infects immune cells that carry it to the lymph nodes, and from there, throughout the body.

What generally lands people with measles in the hospital is the disease's effects on the lungs. As the virus destroys lung cells, patients can develop viral pneumonia, which is characterized by severe coughing and difficulty breathing. Measles pneumonia afflicts about 1 in 20 children who get measles and is the most common cause of death from measles in young children.

The virus can directly invade the nervous system and also damage it by causing inflammation. Measles can cause acute brain damage in two different ways: a direct infection of the brain that occurs in roughly 1 in 1,000 people, or inflammation of the brain two to 30 days after infection that occurs with the same frequency. Children who survive these events can have permanent brain damage and impairments such as blindness and hearing loss.

Yearslong consequences of infection

An especially alarming but still poorly understood effect of measles infection is that it can reduce the immune system's ability to recognize pathogens it has previously encountered. Researchers had long suspected that children who get the measles vaccine also tend to have better immunity to other diseases, but they were not sure why. A study published in 2019 found that having a measles infection destroyed between 11% and 75% of their antibodies, leaving them vulnerable to many of the infections to which they previously had immunity. This effect, called immune amnesia, lasts until people are reinfected or revaccinated against each disease their immune system forgot.

Occasionally, the virus can lie undetected in the brain of a person who recovered from measles and reactivate typically seven to 10 years later. This condition, called subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, is a progressive dementia that is almost always fatal. It occurs in about 1 in 25,000 people who get measles but is about five times more common in babies infected with measles before age 1.

Researchers long thought that such infections were caused by a special strain of measles, but more recent research suggests that the measles virus can acquire mutations that enable it to infect the brain during the course of the original infection.

There is still much to learn about the measles virus. For example, researchers are exploring antibody therapies to treat severe measles. However, even if such treatments work, the best way to prevent the serious effects of measles is to avoid infection by getting vaccinated.

Peter Kasson, Georgia Institute of Technology, The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Screen use could up insomnia risk by up to 60 per cent, slash sleep time by half-hour, study finds

An hour of screen use before sleep could increase risk of insomnia by nearly 60 per cent and cut down sleep time by about half an hour, a study has found.

Over 45,000 students in Norway, aged 18-28, were asked about their sleep times and habits, including how long they used screens after going to bed. Purpose of screen use, such as watching movies or social media, was also reported by the participants.

"The type of screen activity does not appear to matter as much as the overall time spent using screens in bed," said Gunnhild Johnsen Hjetland of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and lead author of the study published in the journal Frontiers in Psychiatry. "We found no significant differences between social media and other screen activities, suggesting that screen use itself is the key factor in sleep disruption -- likely due to time displacement, where screen use delays sleep by taking up time that would otherwise be spent resting," Hjetland said.

Insomnia is defined as taking more than 30 minutes to fall asleep and can include disturbances, such as waking up from sleep often during the night. Quality of sleep suffers and therefore, one could feel sleepy during the day, interfering with activities.

The researchers explained that screen use can affect sleep in four ways -- notifications disturb sleep, screen time replaces sleeping time, screen activities keep you wakeful so you take longer to fall asleep, or light exposure delays circadian rhythms.

Hjetland said sleep problems are highly prevalent among students and have significant implications for mental health, academic performance, and overall well-being.

"A one-hour increase of screen time after going to bed was associated with 59 per cent higher odds of having symptoms of insomnia and a reduction in sleep duration of 24 minutes," the authors wrote.

They also found no significant link between time spent using a screen and the choice of activity -- social media or movies -- suggesting that the activity itself did not affect time spent staying awake. The result indicated that screens reduce sleep time by displacing rest, not because they increase wakefulness -- different activities would be expected to affect wakefulness differently, the researchers said. —PTI

All you need to know about...

4 ways to remove tan

1. Lemon juice and honey
Lemon juice has bleaching effect which helps in removing tan quickly. It is one of the most popularly touted home remedies for getting rid of a tan, but it should not be used undiluted on the skin.
Take fresh lemon juice, add some honey to it and apply on your skin.
Let it stay for 30 minutes and wash off.
You can also add some sugar to the lemon juice and scrub your skin gently to slough off dead cells from the surface.

2. Yogurt and tomato
Tomato is rich in antioxidants that helps in brightening skin. Yogurt on the other hand contains lactic acid which softens the skin.
Take raw tomato and remove the skin.
Blend it with 1-2 tsp of fresh yogurt.
Use this paste on your tan, and wash off after 20 minutes.

3. Cucumber extract helps to remove tan
Cucumber is highly beneficial for tanned and sunburnt skin. Cucumber has a cooling effect and helps remove tan.
Shred a cucumber, and squeeze to get the juice out.
Using a cotton ball, apply the juice all over your skin.
Let it dry and wash. You may also add a little lemon juice for added benefits.

4. Bengal gram flour and turmeric fade the tan
Turmeric is an excellent skin brightening agent while Bengal gram flour (besan) lightens skin effectively. However, turmeric can stain your face yellow.
Use face wash or makeup remover immediately after a turmeric mask.
Add 1 tsp of turmeric to a cup of Bengal gram flour, and mix some water or milk to make a thin paste.
Apply this mixture on your face and body, and let it dry, before gently scrubbing it away using lukewarm water. —Femina

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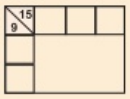
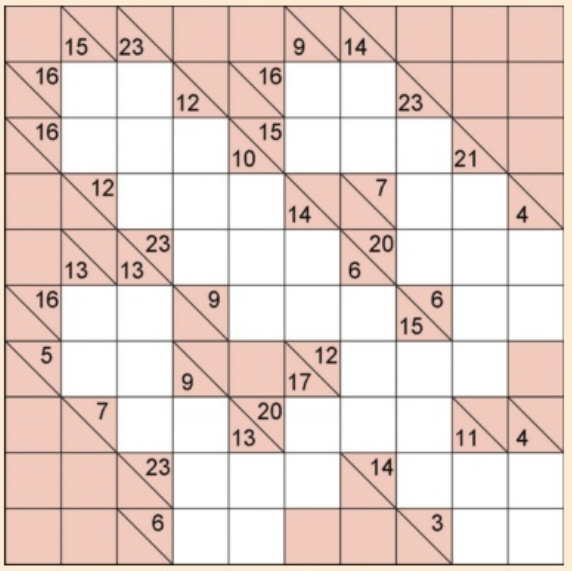
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

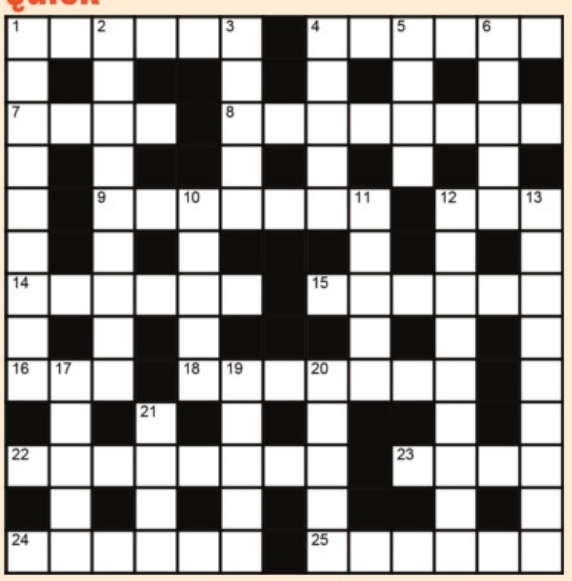


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Allow or cause to escape? (3,3)
4 Tastelessly showy (6)
7 Vendetta (4)
8 Military unit (8)
9 ___ Building: Skyscraper on M G Road (7)
12 ___ Majesty : king's title? (3)
14 Clergyman (6)
15 Takes to task (6)
16 Consume food (3)
18 State language of Maharashtra (7)
22 Newsman Rajdeep ____ (8)
23 Strongly audible or noisy (4)
24 Seven for music (6)
25 Mean (6)

DOWN

1 The full course of development of a living organism (4,5)
2 Rude; aggressive (9)
3 Ferocious (5)
4 Quarrel (5)
5 Large body of soldiers (4)
6 Capital of Vietnam (5)
10 Turn of phrase (5)
11 Sailing boat (5)
12 Ace in golf (4,2,3)
13 Deferred or shelved (9)
17 A proverb (5)
19 Useful quality (5)
20 Plea-excuse (5)
21 Modify the text (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS G

IJVTV YL HGIJYHD GH IJYL VRTIJ XGTV IG CV MTYOVP IJRH ITKV UTYVHPLJYM.

Linemaro

Are you looking for a shallow relationship?

Mindchow

Before marriage, a man will go home and lie awake all night thinking about something you said; after marriage, he'll go to sleep before you finish saying it

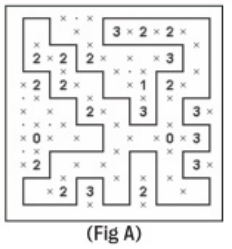
Joke of the day

A potato peeler walks into a bar, goes and sits in a booth in the back. A while later, a potato walks into the bar. Bartender says, "Don't go back there."

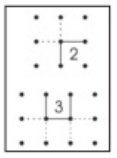
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



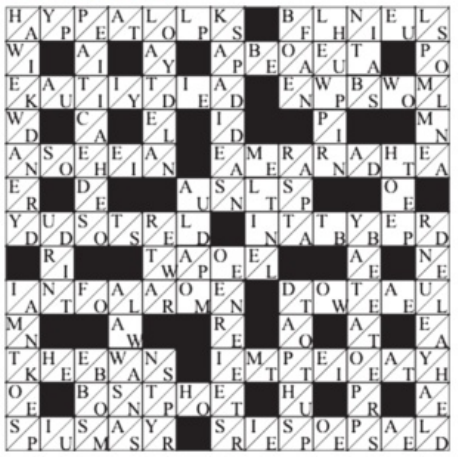
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

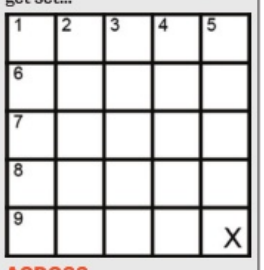
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

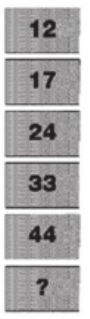
1 A lend; 6 Are mo; 7 Boson; 8 A dies; 9 Durex

DOWN

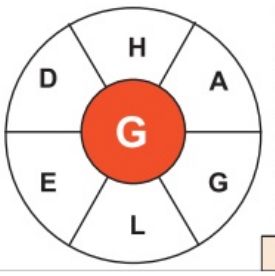
1 Bream; 2 Oleos; 3 Radio; 4 Dun an; 5 Sexed

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	8						6	
9		1	3		5	4		7
			6	2	9			
	5	6		4		2	8	
	1	8		7		9	5	
			1	6	3			
1		2	7		4	8		6
	4						1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
3 5 6 9

Medium = 19
1 2 8 9

Hard = 8
3 7 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

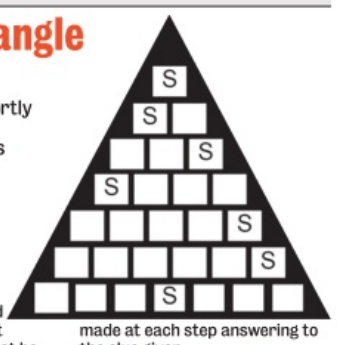
Differences: 1. Moon is moved. 2. Roof is larger. 3. Brick is added. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Belt buckle is larger. 6. Belt loop is added.

Riddler

My creator is a mystery, One that's set in stone. My origins, my history, Still totally unknown. Tests of time I've had to face, My strength and my endurance Cause of weakness; it's your race, But I'm free of all life currents. Was I a calendar, a tomb, a shrine? We've all wondered it before. We don't know... but I'm a wonder! I can tell you that for sure. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 Thus
3 June and July shortly
4 A handful
5 Large publications
6 Large cities
7 Ogre

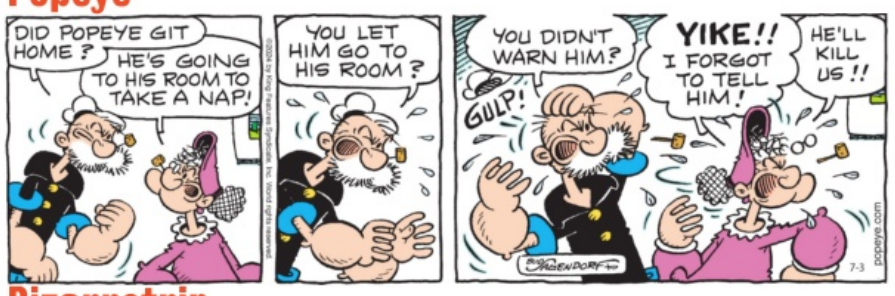


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

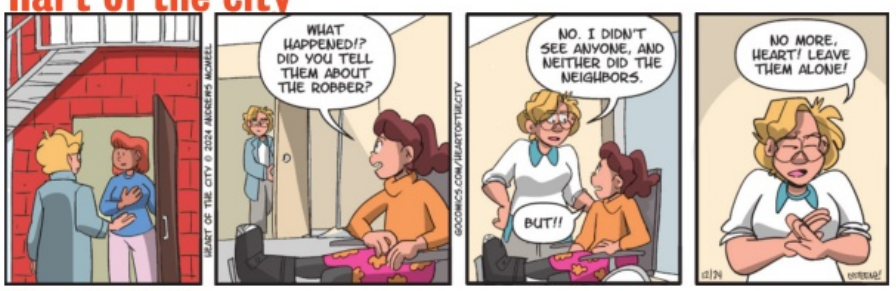

DID POPEYE GIT HOME ?
HE'S GOING TO HIS ROOM TO TAKE A NAP!
YOU LET HIM GO TO HIS ROOM ?
YOU DIDN'T WARN HIM?
GULP!
YIKE!! I FORGOT TO TELL HIM!
HE'LL KILL US !!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

My willpower fails me on the same night every year.
MILK & COOKIES ANONYMOUS
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 12-24-24
Dig it, Mrs. Salmon

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


WHAT HAPPENED!? DID YOU TELL THEM ABOUT THE ROBBER?
NO. I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE, AND NEITHER DID THE NEIGHBORS.
BUT!!
NO MORE, HEART! LEAVE THEM ALONE!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 JEROMY MOWEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Your subordinates will be cooperative, helping you complete pending projects. A social event may expand your network, benefiting both your professional and social life. You might plan an outing with friends, and past disputes may finally be resolved. Students should avoid carelessness.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your communication skills will benefit you professionally. A polite and diplomatic approach will help speed up work projects. Lovebirds will have meaningful conversations, strengthening their relationship.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessed by the moon, a new partnership may bring financial benefits. Your energy levels will be high, and hard work will lead to success. Your self-respect will shield you from negative influences.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel dull and unhappy today. Avoid harsh conversations with family and friends, as reciprocation for your efforts may not meet expectations. Trust your intuition and exercise patience while making important decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
New sources of income may open up, and past investments will bring financial gains, boosting your bank balance. Engaging with a social organization may expand your network. Singles may meet a potential life partner.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Blessings from elders will boost your confidence. Trust your intuition before taking any major steps at work, as it may lead to financial gains. A visit to a religious place with family is likely. Control arrogance to maintain harmony at home. Students may achieve good results with destiny's support.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may receive sudden financial gains, boosting your confidence and bank balance. Avoid stress in domestic life. Your professional and business front will gain momentum, enhancing your prestige. Travel plans, including an overseas trip, might take shape.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Things may not be in your favor today. A sense of dullness and unhappiness may affect your mood. An unexplained fear might trouble you, and you may feel drawn to the occult. A lack of confidence could impact your work. Avoid rash driving and risky adventures.

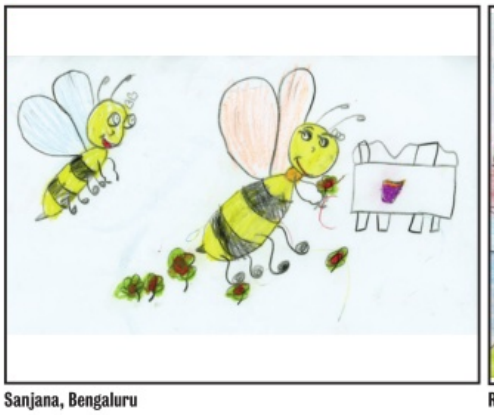
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Blessed by the moon, love will be in the air. Singles may find a suitable match. Professional life will be smooth, with support from friends and subordinates.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You will successfully balance earnings and expenses, strengthening your financial position. Job performance will improve, and new responsibilities or a promotion may be on the horizon. You may recover money that was previously stuck. Opponents and hidden enemies will be under control.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Sleeplessness may cause dullness and scatter your focus, reducing work efficiency. A visit to a religious place may bring inner peace. By the evening, elders' blessings will help you recognize mistakes and plan for the future. Take extra care of your parents' health.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A sense of urgency may make you impatient today, so drive carefully. Elders' blessings will help you overcome obstacles. Romance will flourish, bringing harmony to your love life. Positive results may emerge from new partnerships. Lovebirds will enjoy happy moments. Students may receive good academic news.

KIDZONE



Sanjana, Bengaluru

R Smirithi, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1/4 ÷ 1/4 ÷ 1/4 ÷ 1/8
1/4 x 4/1 x 4/1 x 8/1
4/4 x 4/1 x 8/1
1 x 4/1 x 8/1
4/1 x 8/1
32/1 = 32

RIDDLER
Stonehenge

BULL'S EYE
aged, egad, gale, gael, glad, glade, haggle, HAGGLED, lagged

FAST FIVE

E	L	A	N	D
M	O	R	A	E
B	O	O	N	S
A	S	I	D	E
R	E	D	U	X

STRIKE OUT

A	P	P	A	L	L	S	F	L	I	E	S			
W	I		A		A	B	O	U	T		O			
K	A	T	Y	D	I	D		E	P	S	O	M		
W		C		E		D			I			M		
A	S	H	E	N		E	M	A	N	A	T	E		
	R		E		A	N	T	S		E				
D	U	S	T	E	D		N	A	B	B	E	D		
		R		T	A	E	L		E		E			
I	N	F	L	A	M	E		T	O	T	A	L		
N		A		R		O		T		A				
T	H	E	W	S		I	M	P	I	E	T	Y		
O		O	N	T	H	E		U		R		E		
P	U	S	S	Y		R	E	P	O	S	E	D		

QUICK

S	E	P	T	E	T			I	N	T	E	N	D	

MENSA PUZZLE
57. As you work down the column, numbers follow the sequence of Square Numbers from 16 to 81, subtracting 4, then 8, then 12 etc.

QUOTE UNCODE
There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.

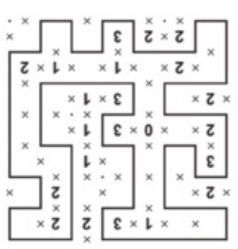
SUDOKU

2	8	3	4	1	7	5	6	9
9	6	1	3	8	5	4	2	7
5	7	4	6	2	9	1	3	8
7	5	6	9	4	1	2	8	3
4	2	9	5	3	8	6	7	1
3	1	8	2	7	6	9	5	4
8	9	5	1	6	3	7	4	2
1	3	2	7	5	4	8	9	6
6	4	7	8	9	2	3	1	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, So, Mos, Some, Tomes, Metros, Monster.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 – 5 + 9 – 6 = 1
Medium
8 + 2 + 9 x 1 = 19
Hard
7 – 9 + 3 x 8 = 8

LOOP



KAKURO

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All applause
Sara Ali Khan took center stage at the IPL 2025, delivering a breathtaking performance that left fans spellbound

BangaloreMirror | 12
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The teaser of pan-Indian movie 45 was unveiled on Sunday by Karunaada Chakravarthy, Dr Shiva Rajkumar in the presence of Real Star Upendra, Raj B Shetty, director-cum-music director Arjun Janya and producer Ramesh Reddy. The movie is bankrolled by Uma Ramesh Reddy under the Suraj Productions banner. It is scheduled to arrive in theaters on August 15.

It is believed that Dr Shiva Rajkumar insisted on completing his portion and also dubbing for his role in the movie before leaving for the US to get admitted to Miami Cancer Institute for surgery. "I insisted on completing the shooting because we do not know what will happen tomorrow. I did not want to trouble anyone. We should have commitment to our profession like how we are committed to our families," said Dr Shiva Rajkumar.

Dr Shiva Rajkumar said 45 has the potential to become a blockbuster.

Brat in town

Director Shashank, known for giving several hits, and Darling Krishna, known for love stories, have joined hands for a pan-Indian movie called Brat. Brat is being bankrolled by Manjunath Kandkur known for First Rank Raju that was released in November 2015. The title of Brat was unveiled by Manjunath Kandkur's brother Badarinath on Friday.

On the occasion, Darling Krishna said that he is acting again under the direction of Shashank after the movie Kausalya Supraja Rama that was released in July 2023. "Brat is different from my previous movies. It is also different for director Shashank. Not many movies have been made based on this type of script. I am known for acting in love and family genre movies. The director has made me a brat with this movie," said Darling Krishna with a smile.

Krishna said that he attended a workshop before facing the camera. "A major portion of the shooting is completed. Manisha Kandkur debuts as a heroine in Sandalwood with this movie. I thank the producer for making all arrangements during the shooting," Krishna said. Shashank said the script is about naughty boys. "I selected Brat as the title as it suits the script," he said.

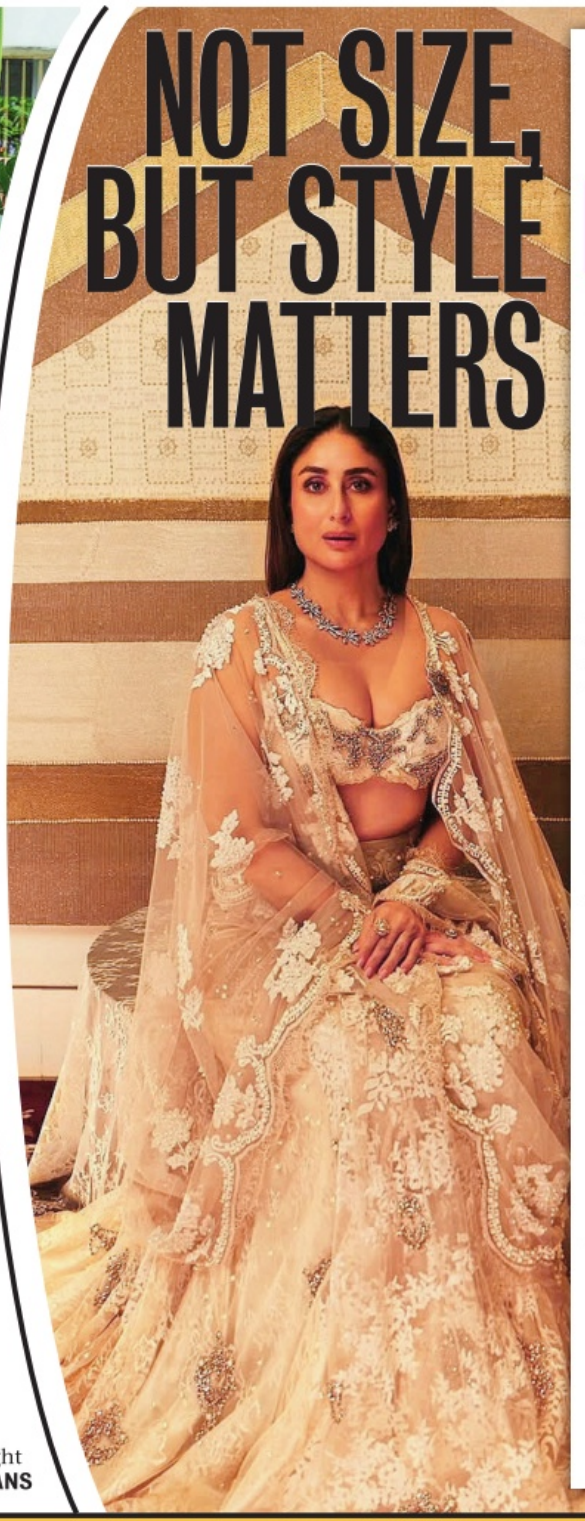
UNSTOPPABLE SISTERS

Actress Shilpa Shetty and her sister Shamita redefined fitness goals as they took their core workout game a notch higher.

Shilpa took to Instagram, where she shared a reel featuring the two actresses. In the clip, Shilpa and Shamita are seen doing a floor workout for abs. The workout included leg raises, crunches, Med ball over-head crunches. She wrote as the caption: "Abs-olutely unstoppable together... Benefits: Strengthening your core boosts posture, balance, stability, and reduces injury risk. It enhances athletic performance and everyday movements, making you fitter and more functional."

"Partner workouts add fun, motivation, and competition to keep things engaging. Challenge thrown to you.. are you ready to feel the burn with your workout partner?"

Shilpa is an avid social media user and keeps entertaining her followers with fun videos. Recently, the actress took to her Instagram handle and shared a hilarious reel with her manager. For the caption, Shilpa wrote, "When your manager tries to cut short your vacation for work! @anishisharma and @youareami love you guys." In the reel, the 'Dhadkan' actress could be seen lip syncing to the trending dialogue, "Do, one thing, go straight from here, right straight and go to hell.. ji." —IANS



NOT SIZE, BUT STYLE MATTERS

Kareena on owning the ramp at every size

Kareena Kapoor is a true blue fashionista and whenever she walks the ramp she makes sure all eyes are on her.

Something similar happened during the grand celebration of 25 years of Lakme Fashion Week. Addressing the gathering, Bebo opened up about owning the ramp at every size- from her iconic size zero to a size 12.

Taking a trip down memory lane, Kareena said, "I do everything with my heart. So, whether it was walking the ramp when I was size zero or walking the ramp with Taimur in my belly, or whether it was, you know, size 10 or 12, that never really mattered. What mattered was my heart....my heart was on stage.. was with each and every designer that I walked for was also in my confidence. Thank you, Lakme for having me..I enjoyed my time."

Announcing that she is back in the Lakme family, Bebo revealed that she is excited to walk the ramp again with her favorite designers, however, this time not as size zero, "Hopefully I will be back on the ramp, with all my favorite designers, wearing all their outfits -maybe not as size zero but owning it completely."

Honoring the 'real icons' of the show, Kareena stated, "I am nervous because it's not just me there are so many icons in this room...of course all the eminent designers and the real icons are fashion stylists, makeup artists, hair stylists, choreographers, and those smashing hot 60 models who are backstage."

Kareena looked simply stunning in an ivory Manish Malhotra ethnicwear. She opted for a glittering blouse with subtle stone detailing and a plunging neckline. The blouse was paired with a gorgeous lehenga featuring a pleated tulle overlay. Her outfit of the day was tied up with an ivory tulle dupatta with stone and sequin details all over.

As for accessories, Kareena went with a flower-themed silver and stone-studded necklace paired with dainty studs. She decided to leave her hair open. —IANS

Tide and ebb of life

Manada Kadalu has generated a lot of curiosity among movie buffs as it is bankrolled by E Krishnappa and directed by Yogaraj Bhat, who reunited for this movie after a gap of 18 years after their maiden blockbuster Mungaru Male.

For the movie Manada Kadalu, the director selected the sea that is a symbol of calm and roughness. This movie deals with love, life, philosophy.

It begins with Sumuka (Sumukha), underwater, followed by a voiceover narrating how Sumukha, a MBBS student from Mysuru, decides to drop out from the medical college after witnessing a Group D employee's death in the hospital and how he embarks on a tour. He happens to meet Rashika (Rashika Shetty), a cricketer, on the seashore. Smitten by Rashika's beauty, he falls in love with her. To avoid him, she asks him to meet her after some time. He comes to know that she is at Doni Durga. He visits Doni Durga and finds Rashika with her friend Anju (Anjali Anish), an archaeologist. Anju tells him that Rashika suffers from ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Sumukha, Anu, and Rashika.

Sumukha is at his best. His acting skills in happy and gloomy scenes deserve appreciation. He can establish himself as an actor in Sandalwood if he focuses on the craft and further hones his skills. Anjali Anish and Rashika Shetty are both equally good. Rangayana Raghu and veteran actor Dattanna give good support.

Santosh Rai Pathaje has done an excellent job in capturing the beauty of the sea, Murud Janjira Fort, and the greenery. V Harikrishna's music is good and the songs are melodious. It is worth a watch for family audiences.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Manada Kadalu
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Yogaraj Bhat
- **ACTORS** Sumuka, Rahika Shetty, Anjali Anish, Rangayana Raghu, Dattanna, and Shivadwaj
- **Duration** 154 minutes
- **Certification** U/A